

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing. In particular, Applicants respectfully point out that the priority of the current application is August 24, 1998, which is prior to the reference cited by the Examiner in the Advisory Action dated May 16, 2009. Attached to this response is a Certified Translation of the priority document. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference cited by the Examiner is improper.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for a reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

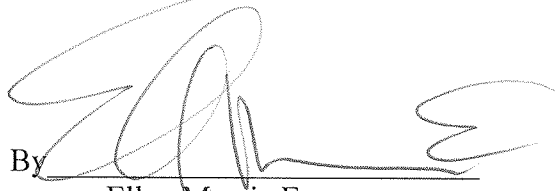
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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